



JOURNEY TO THE EAST
PART 1 OF 4

#13

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DIRECT EDITION



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Welcome to the planet Mobius—a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Sonic's city has been conquered by the Iron Dominion. Now he must travel to the
mysterious Dragon Kingdom to weaken his enemies from abroad!

Journey to the East

STORMTOP VILLAGE--
DRAGON KINGDOM

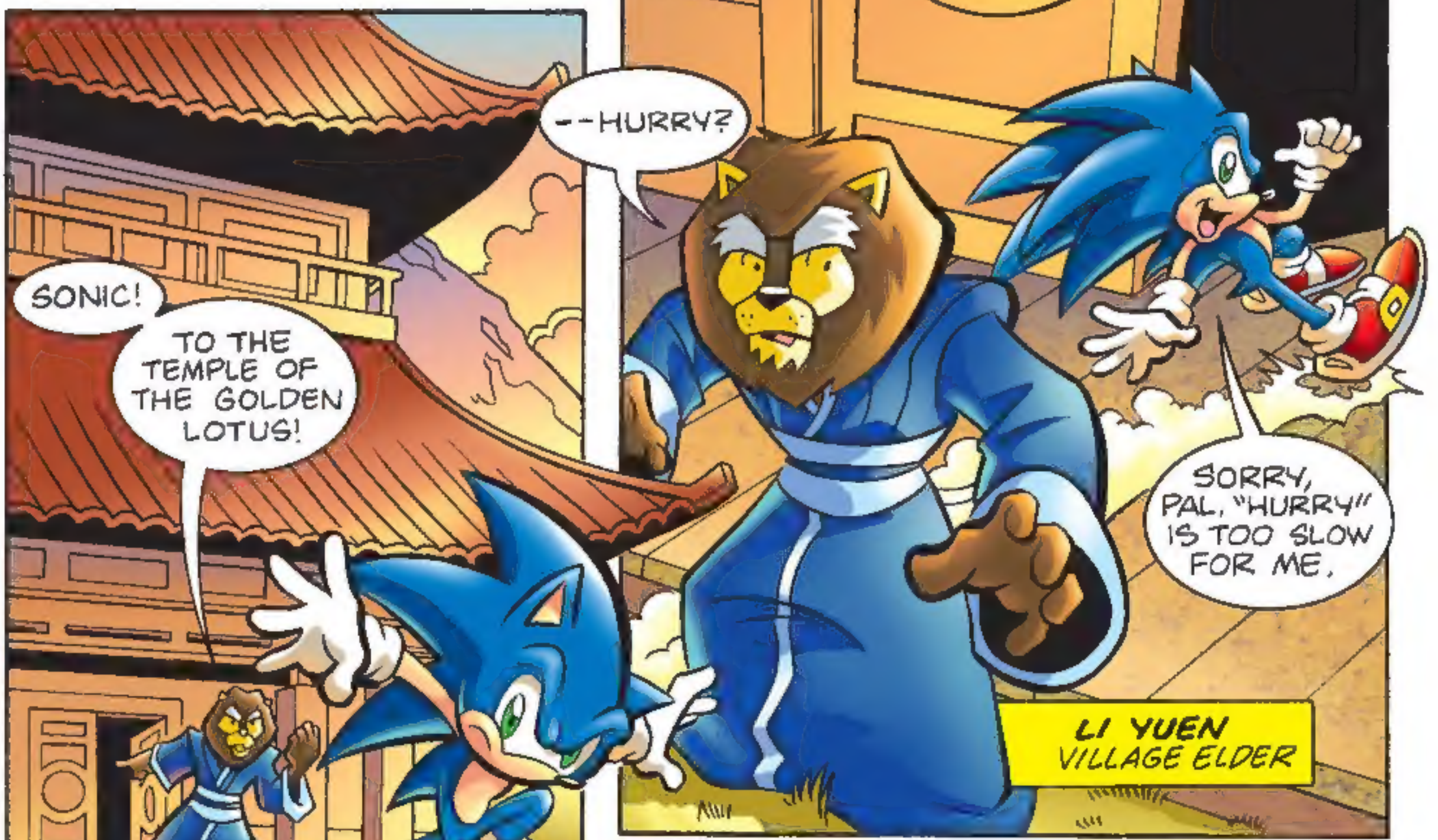
YOU GUYS
REALLY KNOW HOW
TO MAKE A TOURIST
FEEL WELCOME!

SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG
HERO OF
MOBIUS

SPIDER NINJA
OF THE
GOSSAMER CLAN

Part One:
Endless Reach of
FATE

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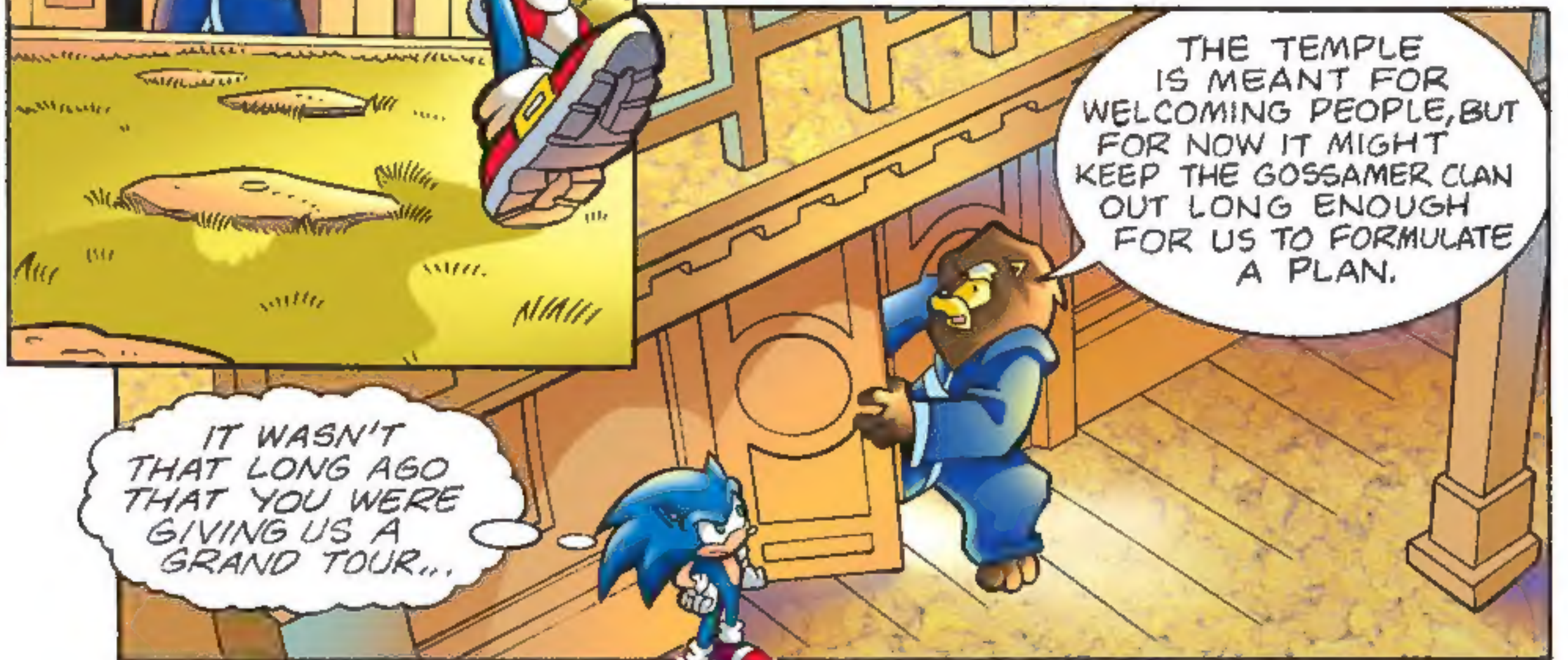
SONIC!

TO THE
TEMPLE OF
THE GOLDEN
LOTUS!

--HURRY?

SORRY,
PAL, "HURRY"
IS TOO SLOW
FOR ME.

LI YUEN
VILLAGE ELDER



THE TEMPLE
IS MEANT FOR
WELCOMING PEOPLE, BUT
FOR NOW IT MIGHT
KEEP THE GOSSAMER CLAN
OUT LONG ENOUGH
FOR US TO FORMULATE
A PLAN.

IT WASN'T
THAT LONG AGO
THAT YOU WERE
GIVING US A
GRAND TOUR...

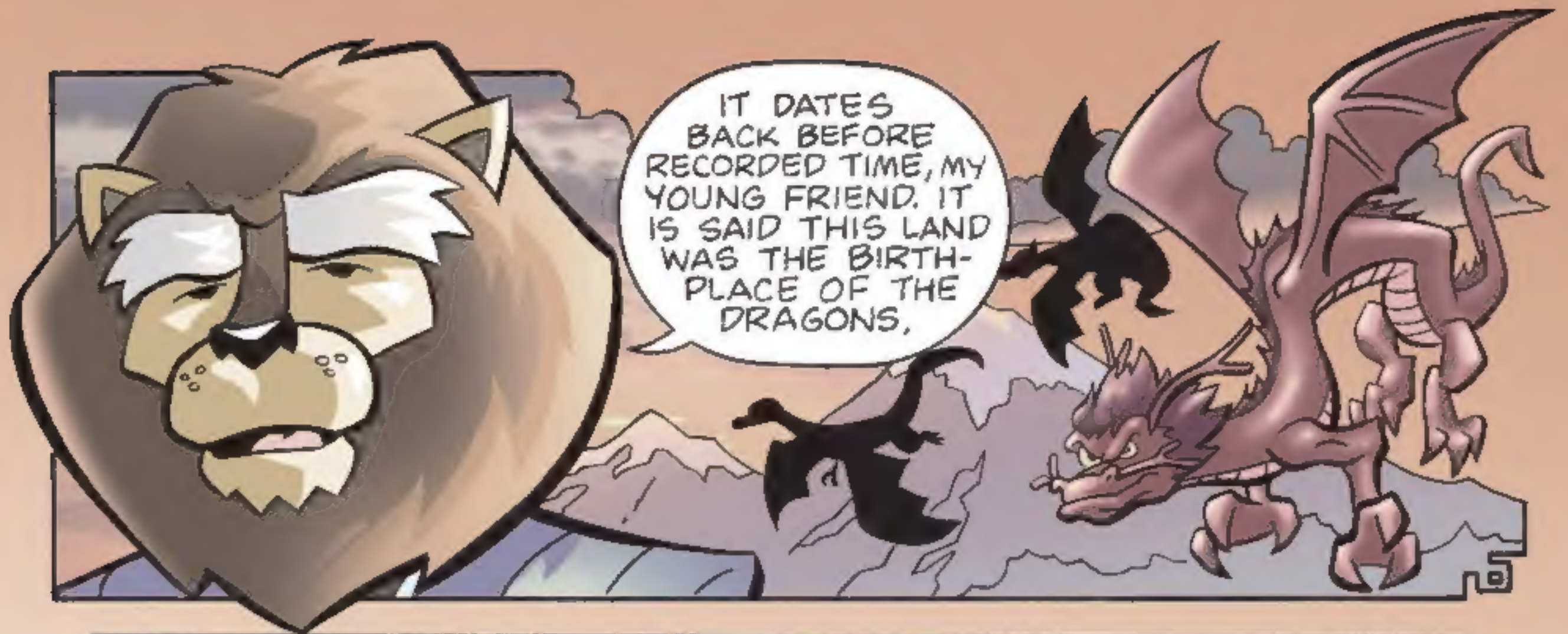


**HOURS
AGO...**

...AND
THIS IS THE
TEMPLE OF
THE GOLDEN
LOTUS.

I'LL SAY!
WHAT'S THE
STORY OF THIS
PLACE, MR. LI?

COOL.



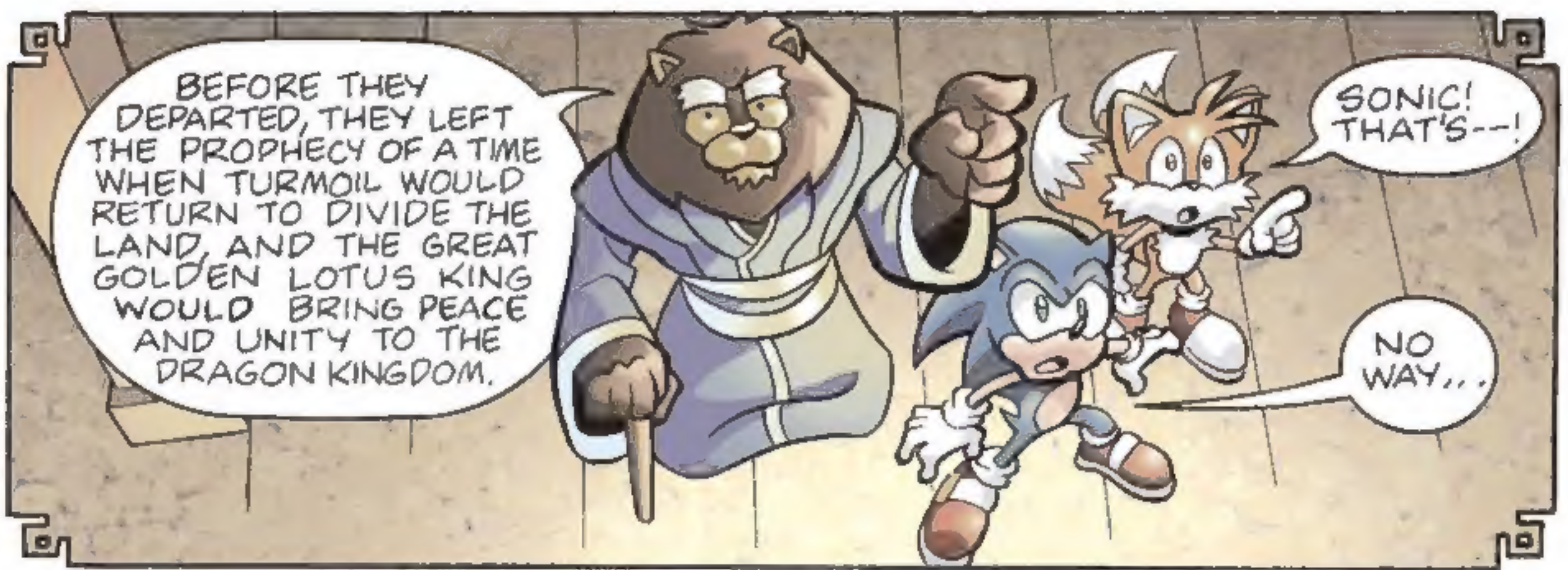
IT DATES BACK BEFORE RECORDED TIME, MY YOUNG FRIEND. IT IS SAID THIS LAND WAS THE BIRTH-PLACE OF THE DRAGONS,



"THEY WERE A YOUNG RACE, AND THEY MISUSED THEIR IMMENSE POWER, THEY WARRIED WITH EACH OTHER HORRIBLY FOR GENERATIONS.



"IN TIME THEY SAW THE RUINATION THAT THEIR FIGHTING BROUGHT. ASHAMED, THEY VOWED TO LEAVE THE LAND IN PEACE AND SETTLE THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD."



BEFORE THEY DEPARTED, THEY LEFT THE PROPHECY OF A TIME WHEN TURMOIL WOULD RETURN TO DIVIDE THE LAND, AND THE GREAT GOLDEN LOTUS KING WOULD BRING PEACE AND UNITY TO THE DRAGON KINGDOM.

SONIC! THAT'S---!

NO WAY...

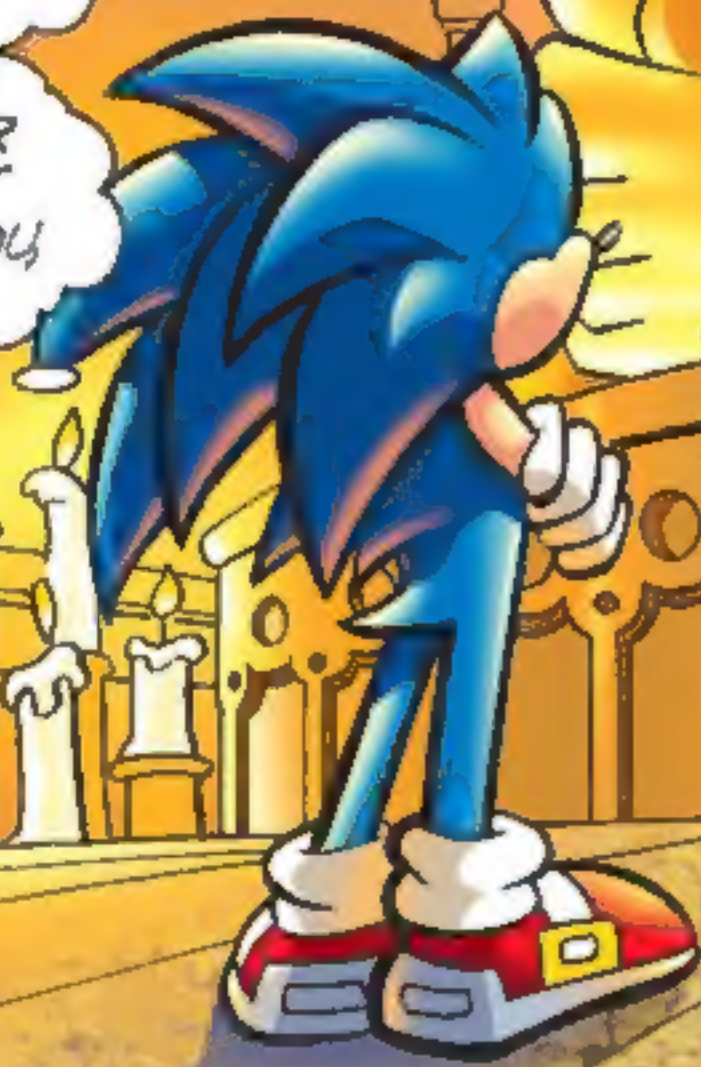
I DIDN'T
THINK MUCH
OF THAT PROPHECY
WHEN I FIRST
HEARD IT.



*CLASSIC STH#60!

... BUT
NOW IT'S KIND
OF HARD TO
IGNORE.

YOU'VE
GOT YOUR
WORK CUT
OUT FOR YOU,
KHAN.



WHILE WE ARE
SAFE FOR NOW,
I AM AFRAID THE
OTHERS HAVE BEEN
CAPTURED.

I APOLOGIZE,
I HAVE BEEN
A POOR
STEWARD.

DON'T SWEAT
IT, POPS. I'LL
THINK OF A WAY
TO MAKE THIS
WORK.





I ENVY YOUR CONFIDENCE, YOUNG MAN.

THANKS, BUT THE WINDOWS WERE CLEANED YESTERDAY. COME BACK NEXT WEEK, OKAY?



THIS IS A SACRED PLACE! YOU CANNOT DESECRATE IT WITH VIOLENCE!



I JUST SAID---

WE'RE NOT FIGHTING, THOUGH.

WE'RE JUST HAVING A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, RIGHT?





I'VE TANGLED WITH SOME OF YOU GUYS IN THE PAST, AND I'M NOTING A SERIOUS LACK OF WEAPONRY. OR WEBBING.

YOU'RE PULLING YOUR PUNCHES. WHY?



THE MASTER LEARNED OF YOUR ARRIVAL AND DECREED YOU WOULD MEET HER.

THERE WAS NO GUARANTEE YOU WOULD COME WILLINGLY OR PEACEFULLY.

WE WERE SENT TO MAKE ASSURANCES.



SO ATTACKING AND KIDNAPPING MY FRIENDS WAS THE BEST YOU COULD COME UP WITH TO GET MY COOPERATION? YOU COULDN'T JUST IMPORT A CHILI DOG RECIPE?

IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION THE MASTER.



OH, WELL.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, OLD MAN!

YOU'RE SIMPLY GOING WITH THEM? JUST LIKE THAT?

SURE!



"AT THIS RATE, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?"

LATER...

WOW!
NICE PLACE
YOU'VE GOT
HERE.

PRINCESS
SALLY
ACORN
TOMBOY
PRINCESS

MILES
"TAILS"
PROWER
SONIC'S
BEST
FRIEND

MONKEY
KHAN
DRAGON
KINGDOM
NATIVE

HEY GUYS!
SORRY IT TOOK
SO LONG TO GET
BACK TO YOU.

SONIC!

YOU HAVE
AGREED TO
MEET THE MASTER
WITH OBEDIENCE
AND HUMILITY?

YEAH, BECAUSE
THOSE ARE TOTALLY
MY KEY TRAITS. LET
MY FRIENDS GO AND
WE'LL HEAR WHAT SHE
HAS TO SAY WITH-
OUT A FUSS.

VERY
WELL.



HOW ARE YOU GUYS? DID THEY ROUGH YOU UP TOO MUCH?

NO, WE'RE FINE!

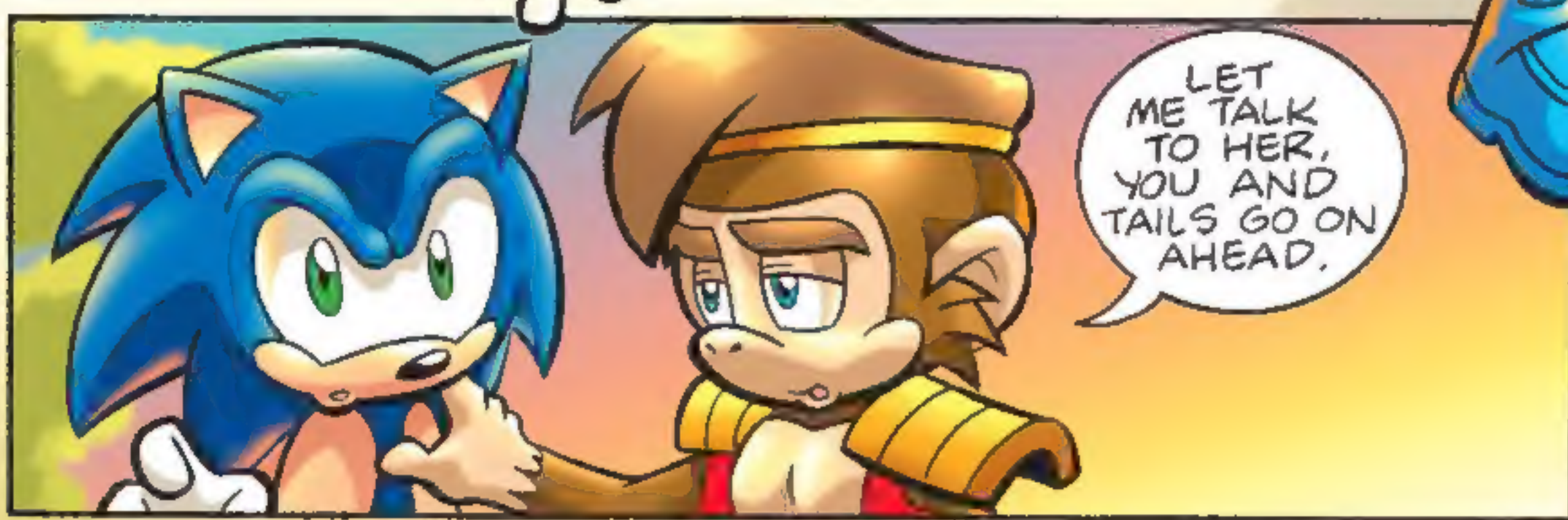
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.

BEING BEATEN SO EASILY IS ONLY HALF AS EMBARRASSING AS HAVING TO BE RESCUED BY YOU.

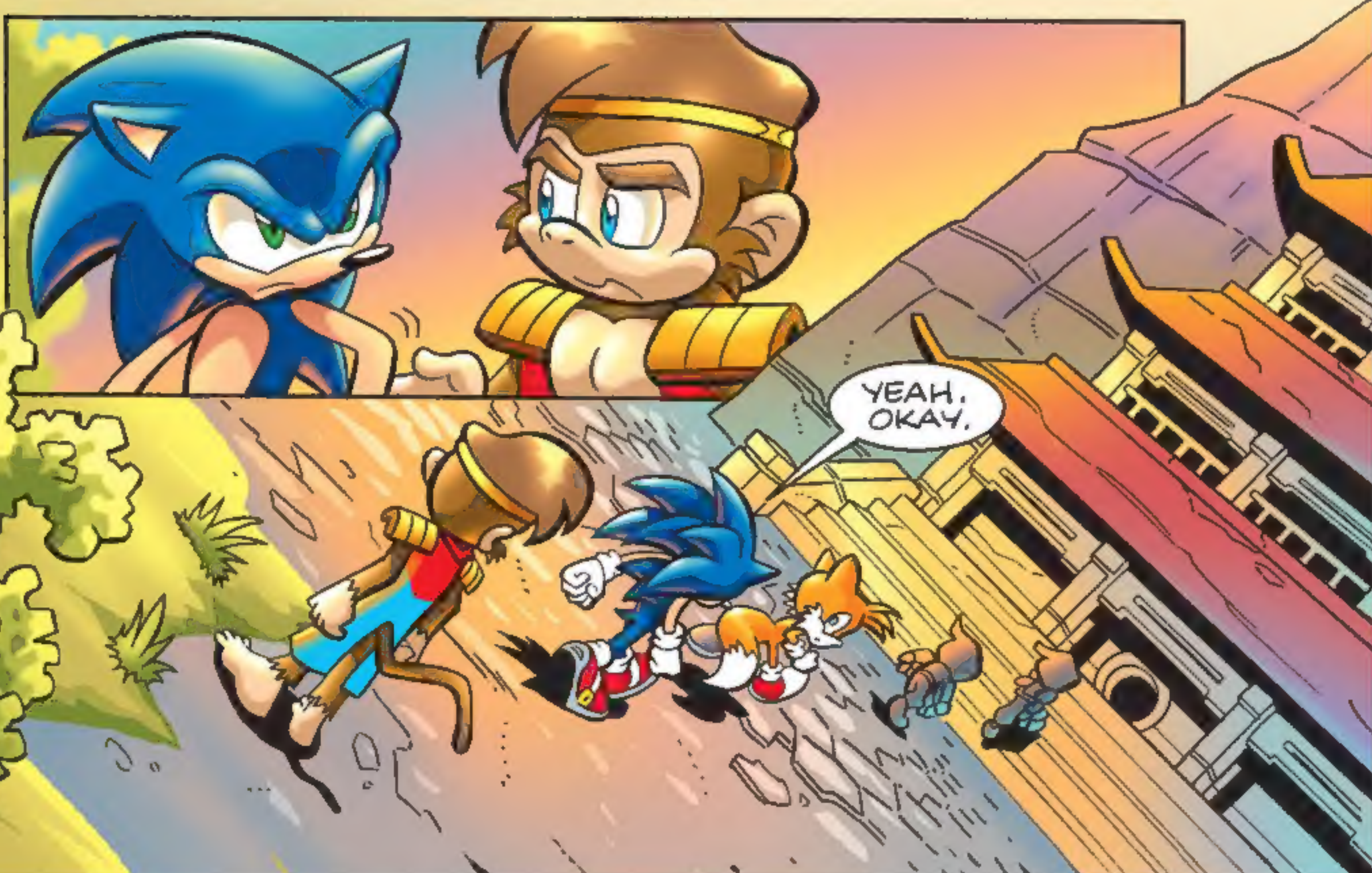


GET OVER YOURSELF, MONKEY BOY.

YOU OKAY, SAL? ...SALLY?



LET ME TALK TO HER, YOU AND TAILS GO ON AHEAD.



YEAH, OKAY.



SALLY,
TALK TO
ME.
WE NEED
YOU AT THE
TOP OF YOUR
GAME RIGHT
NOW.

I DON'T
THINK I'VE
BEEN AT
THE "TOP OF
MY GAME"
FOR MONTHS,
KEN.



I DIDN'T
ARREST ROBOTNIK
WHEN I HAD THE
CHANCE,* IT DIDN'T
EVEN OCCUR TO ME,
AND I RATIONALIZED
IT FOR MYSELF LATER
AS SHOWING MERCY.
I'VE LOST NEW
MOBOTROPOLIS TO
THE IRON DOMINION**,
AND NOW I'VE
SPENT MY FIRST
FEW HOURS OF
THIS MISSION AS
A STUPID
HOSTAGE!

*STH#200
**STH#208-209

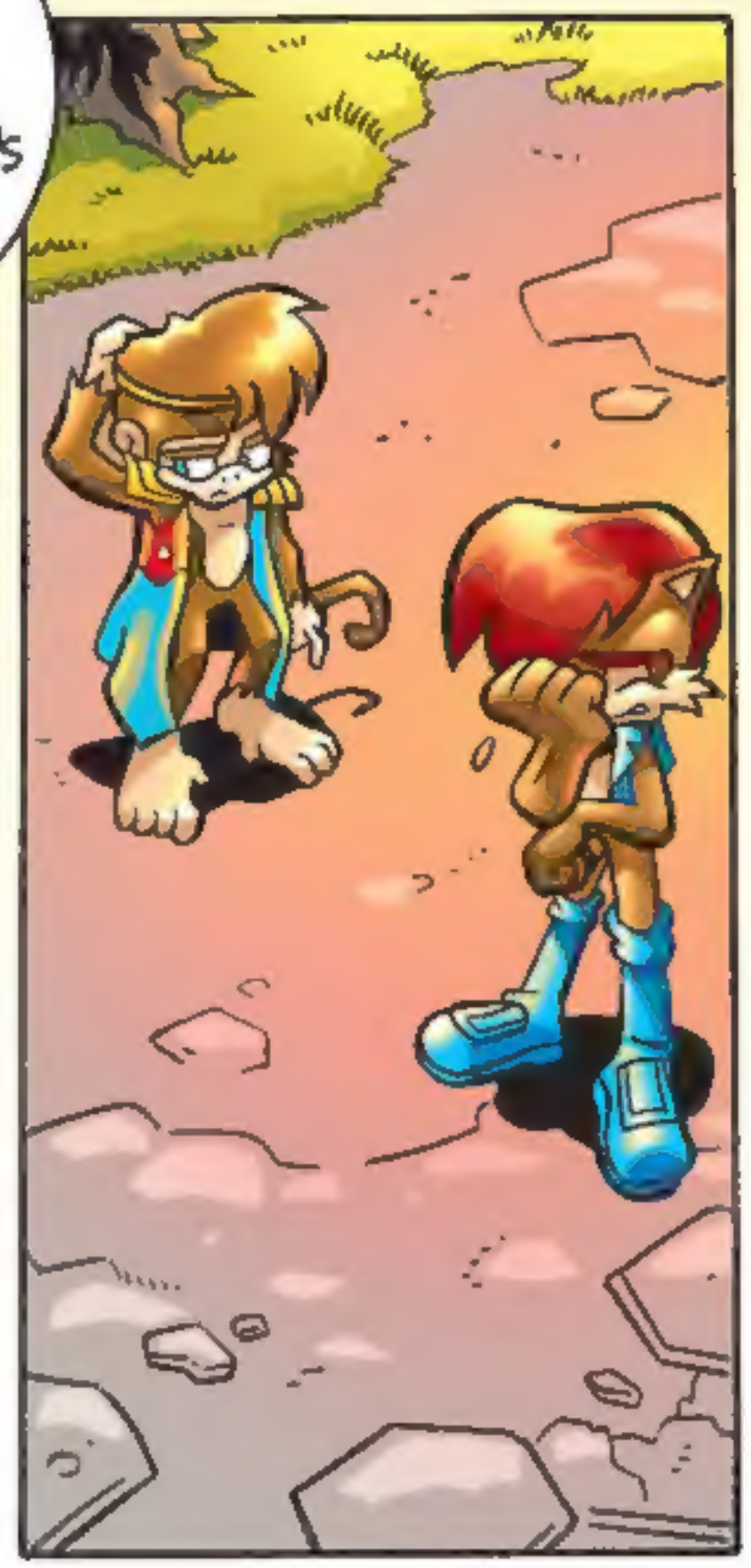


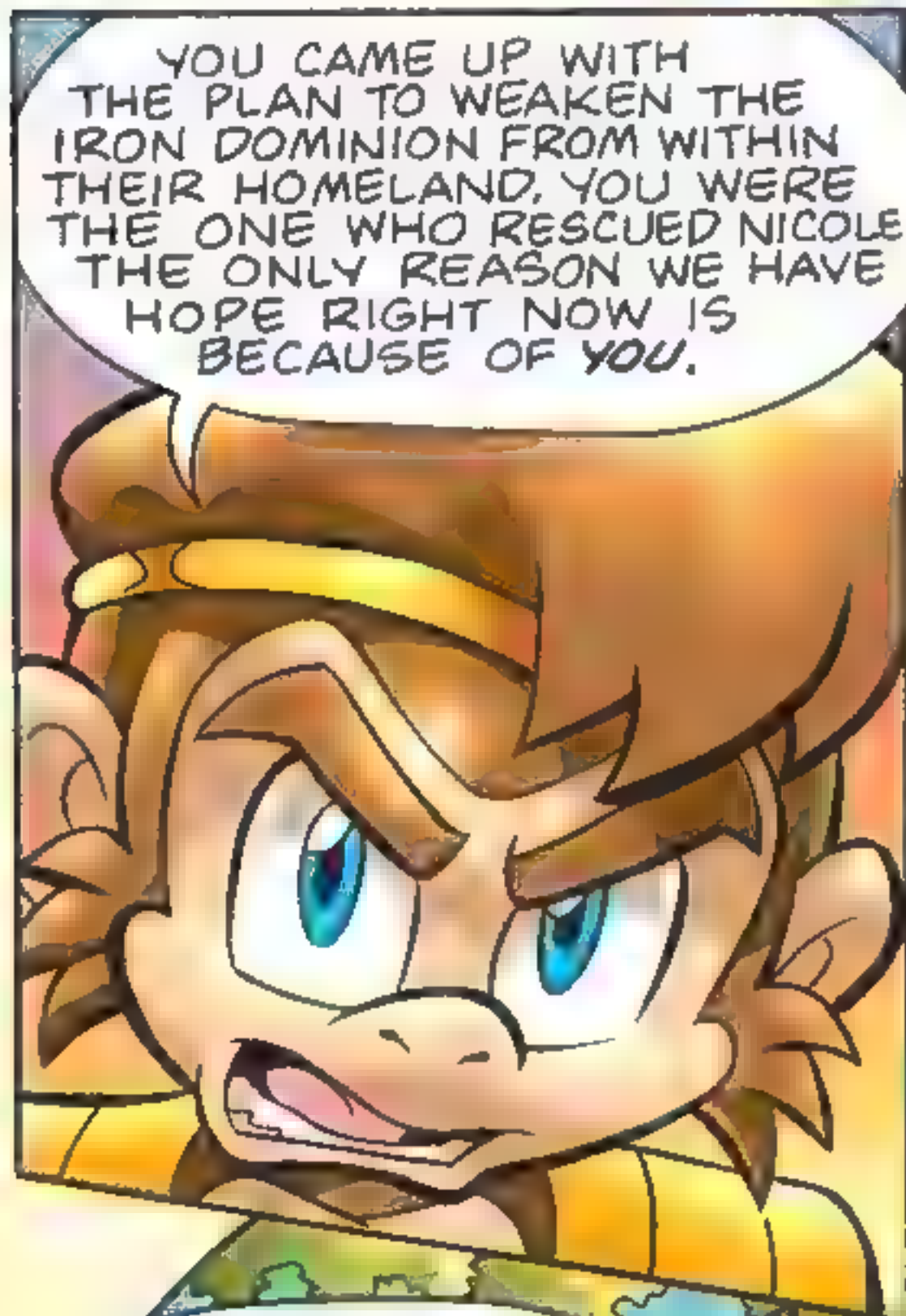
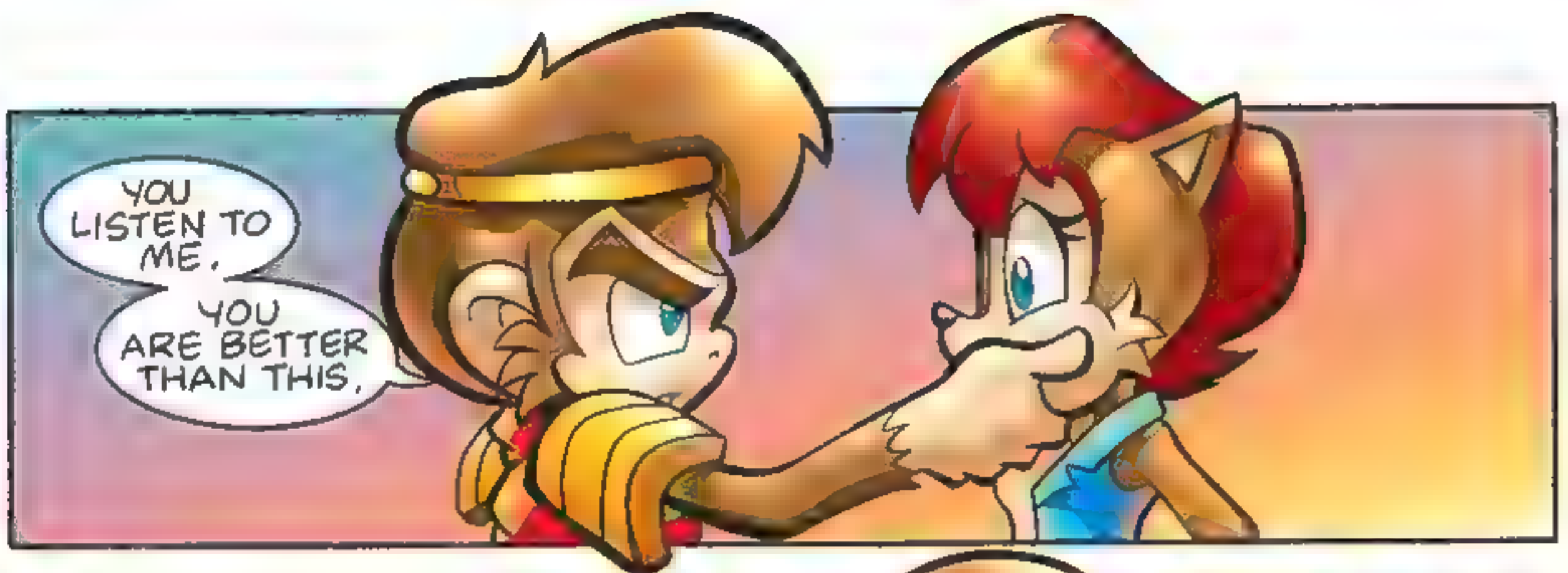
SALLY...

NO!

I USED
TO HANDLE
SWATBOTS, KEN!
SWATBOTS!
I STAGED A
WINNING CAMPAIGN
AGAINST ROBOTNIK'S
EMPIRE BEFORE
I EVEN CAME
OF AGE!

AND NOW
LOOK AT THIS
MESS WE'RE IN.
I'M ONLY FREE
BECAUSE I RAN
AWAY FROM THE
FIGHT! I FEEL
LIKE I'M AT
THE END OF
MY ROPE
HERE!





"LET'S GO SEE THE WOMAN IN CHARGE."

I AM THE BRIDE OF THE ENDLESS REACH. BRIDE TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOSSAMER CLAN. SHE WHO KNOWS THE COURSE OF FATE, SHE WHO CAN OBTAIN ALL THINGS.

I AM PRINCESS SALLY ALICIA ACORN, DAUGHTER OF KING MAXIMILLIAN AND LEADER OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

I AM MONKEY KHAN.

OH NO, YOU DON'T. WE NEED YOU AT THE TOP OF YOUR GAME, TOO.

...THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE. APPOINTED DEFENDER OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM WITHOUT A CLAN TO CALL THEIR OWN.

YO, I'M SONIC.

MY NAME IS TAILS, I'M WITH HIM.



GUYS!
WOULD YOU
PLEASE--!

AH, THE
ACORN PRINCESS.
WE WOULD VERY
MUCH LIKE TO
HEAR YOUR
ACCOUNT OF
OUR DEAREST
DAUGHTER--



--UMA
ARACHNIS.

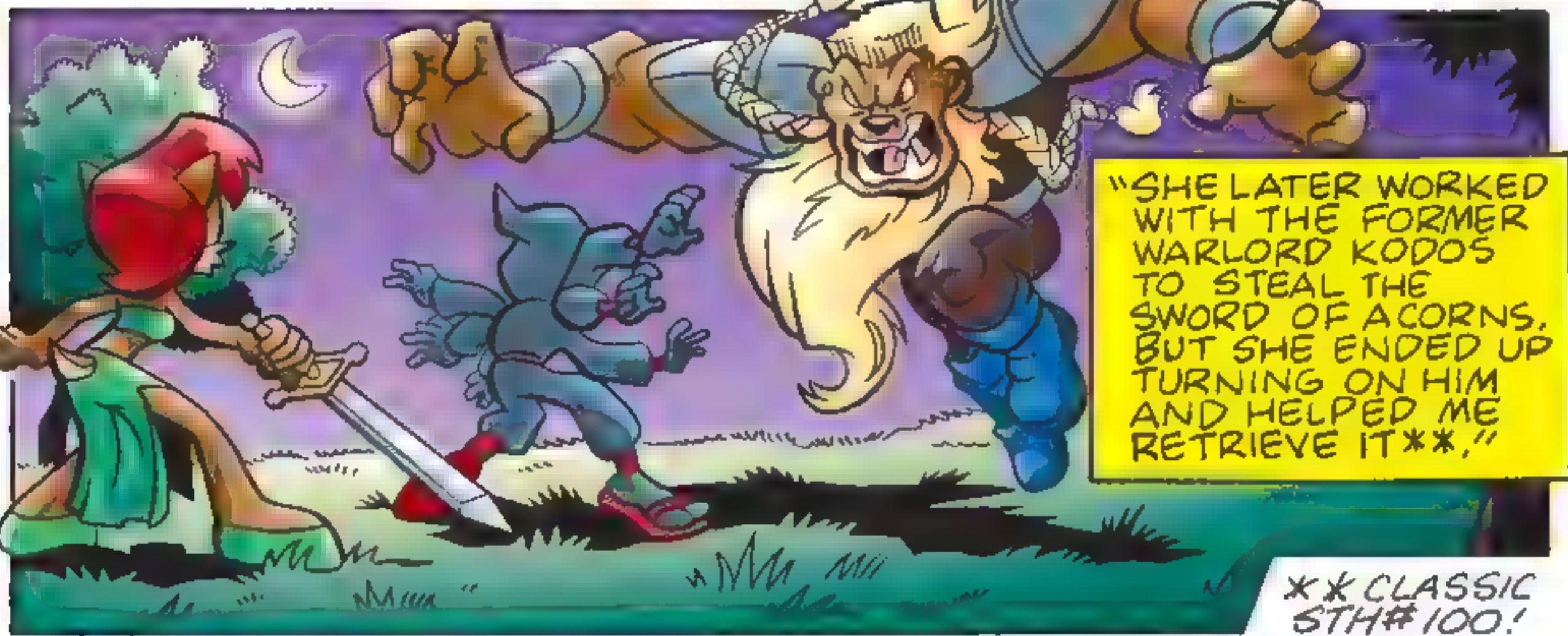
SHE WAS
ONE OF
YOURS?

WAIT,
I THOUGHT
YOU'D NEVER
BEEN TO
THE DRAGON
KINGDOM?



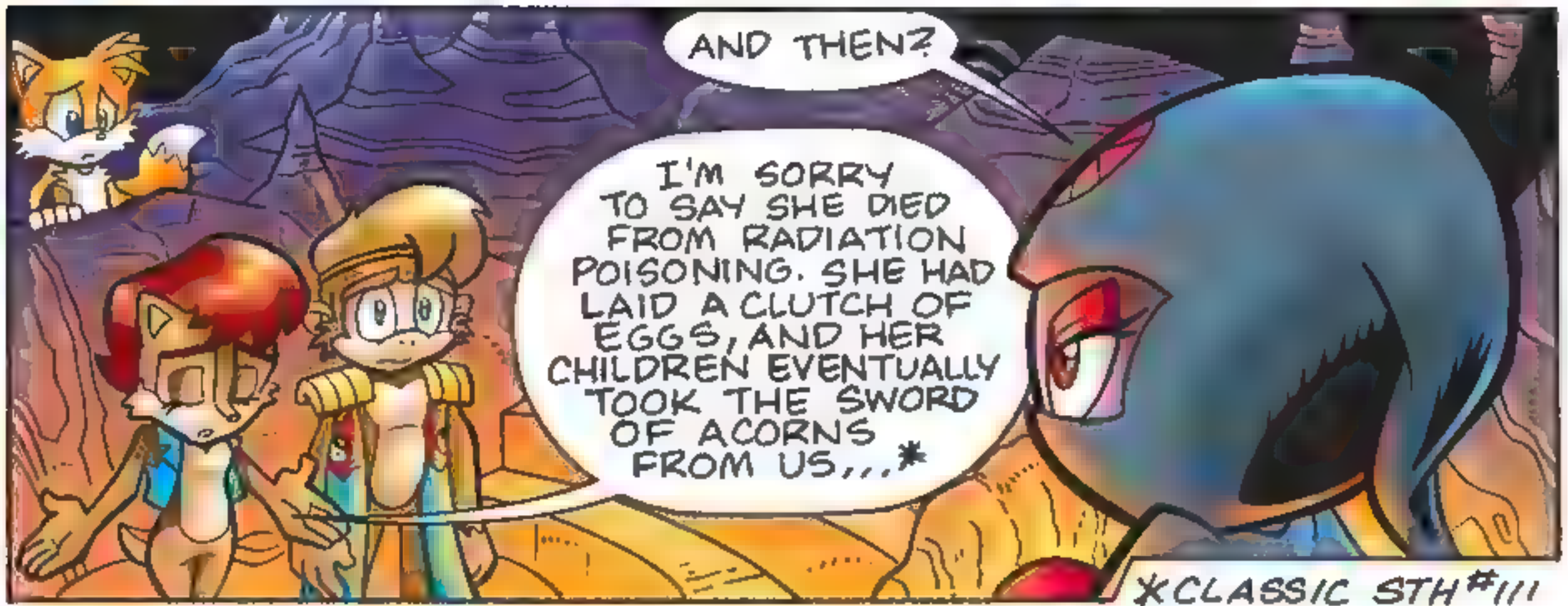
SHE WAS
A MINION OF THE
EVIL WIZARD IXIS
NAUGUS AND ESCAPED
FROM THE ZONE OF
SILENCE WITH HIM A LONG
WHILE AGO.*

*CLASSIC
STH#53



"SHE LATER WORKED
WITH THE FORMER
WARLORD KODOS
TO STEAL THE
SWORD OF ACORNS,
BUT SHE ENDED UP
TURNING ON HIM
AND HELPED ME
RETRIEVE IT**."

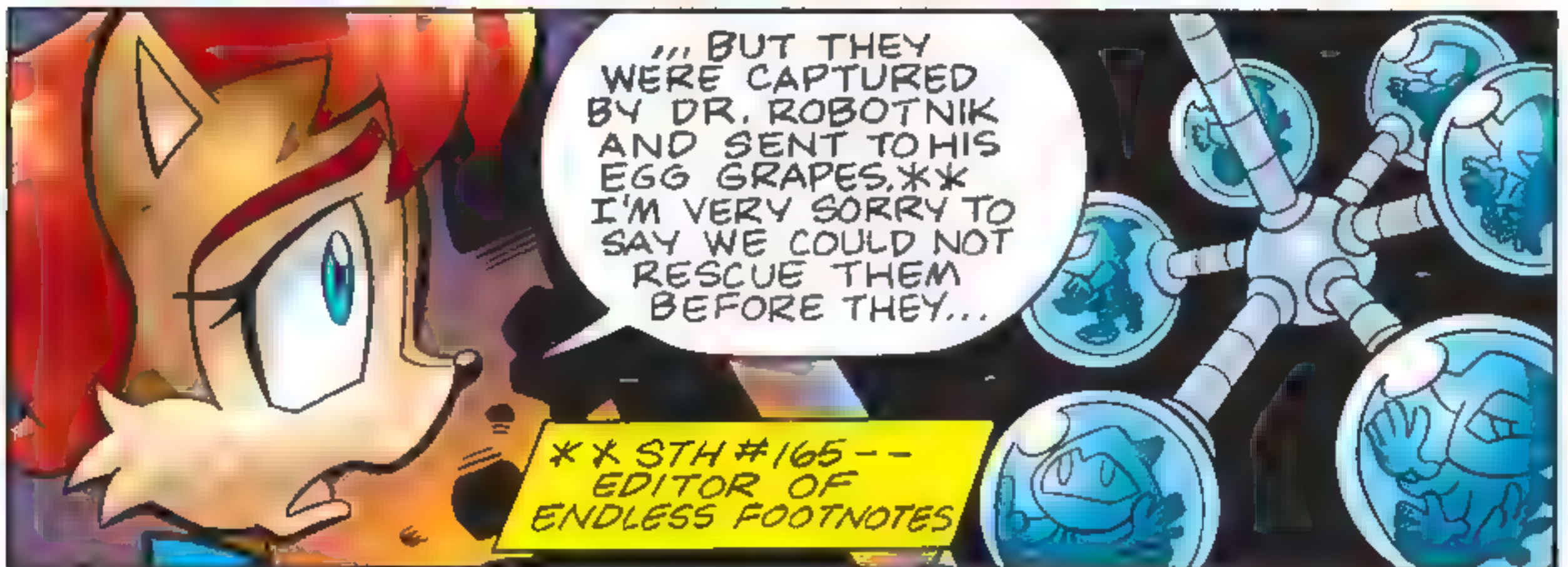
**CLASSIC
STH#100!



AND THEN?

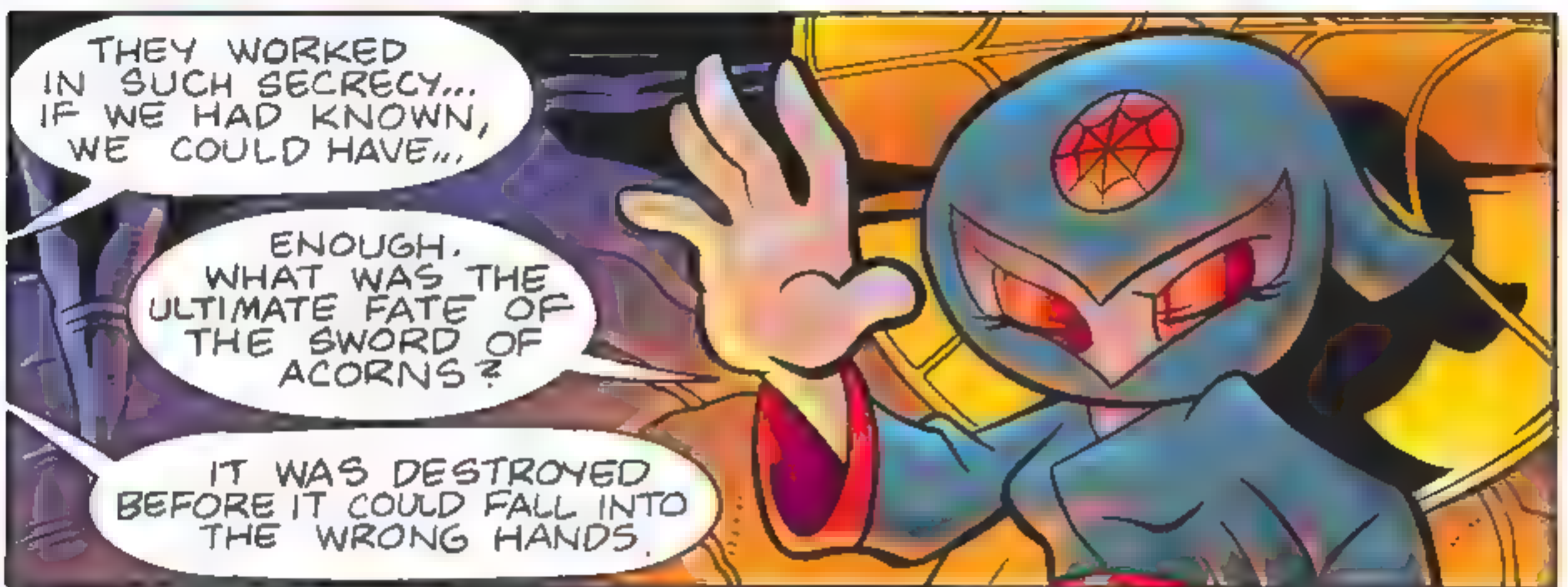
I'M SORRY TO SAY SHE DIED FROM RADIATION POISONING. SHE HAD LAID A CLUTCH OF EGGS, AND HER CHILDREN EVENTUALLY TOOK THE SWORD OF ACORNS FROM US...*

*CLASSIC STH#111



... BUT THEY WERE CAPTURED BY DR. ROBOTNIK AND SENT TO HIS EGG GRAPES.** I'M VERY SORRY TO SAY WE COULD NOT RESCUE THEM BEFORE THEY...

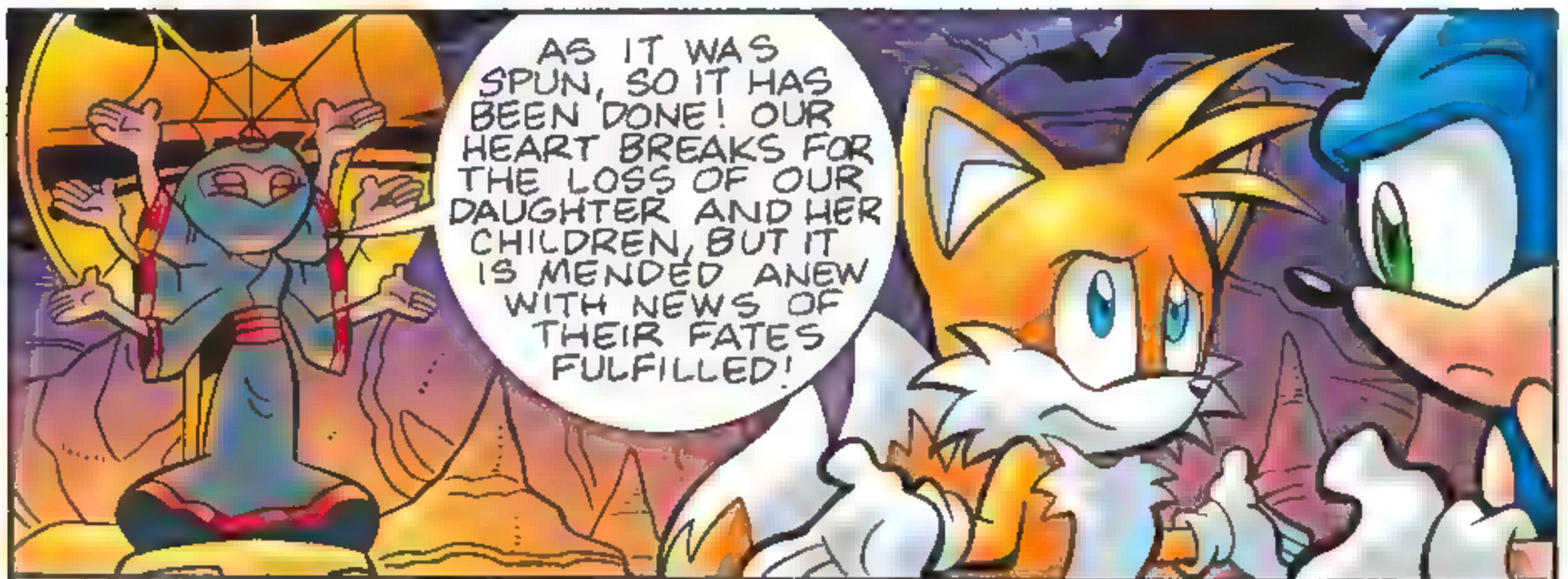
** STH#165 -- EDITOR OF ENDLESS FOOTNOTES




THEY WORKED IN SUCH SECRECY... IF WE HAD KNOWN, WE COULD HAVE...

ENOUGH. WHAT WAS THE ULTIMATE FATE OF THE SWORD OF ACORNS?

IT WAS DESTROYED BEFORE IT COULD FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

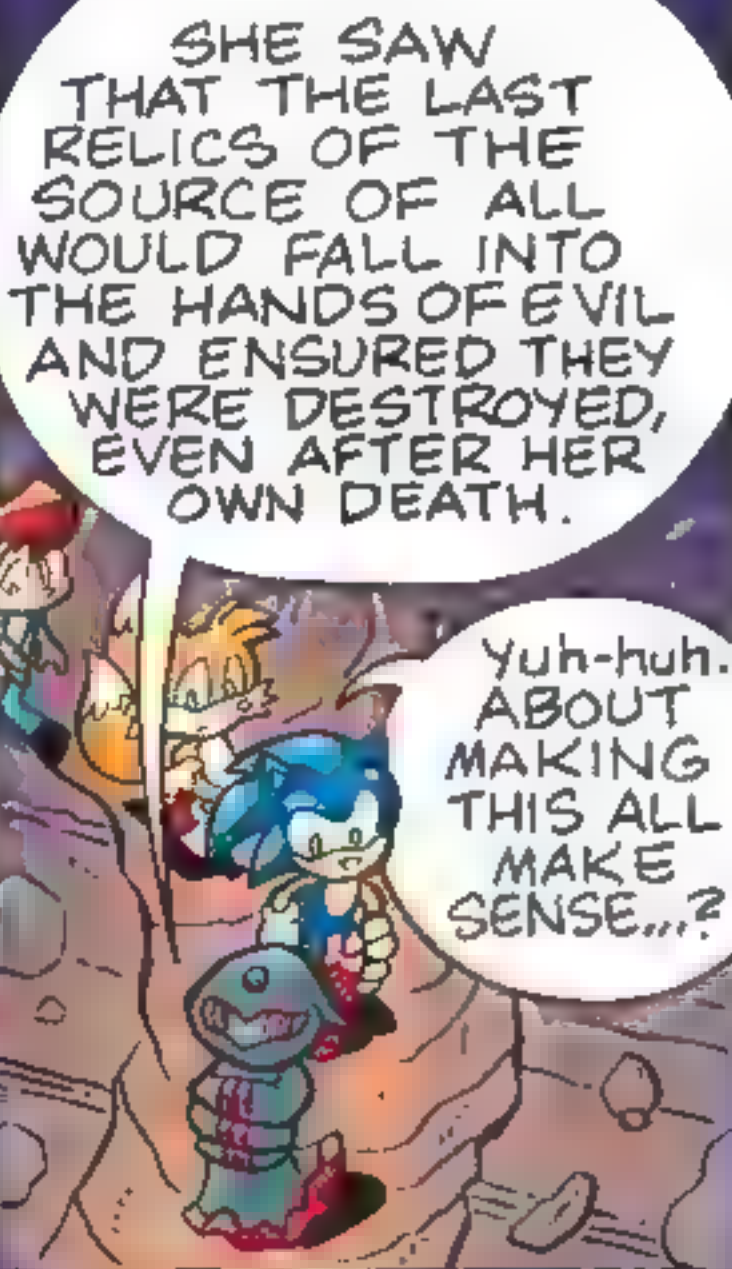


AS IT WAS SPUN, SO IT HAS BEEN DONE! OUR HEART BREAKS FOR THE LOSS OF OUR DAUGHTER AND HER CHILDREN, BUT IT IS MENDED ANEW WITH NEWS OF THEIR FATES FULFILLED!



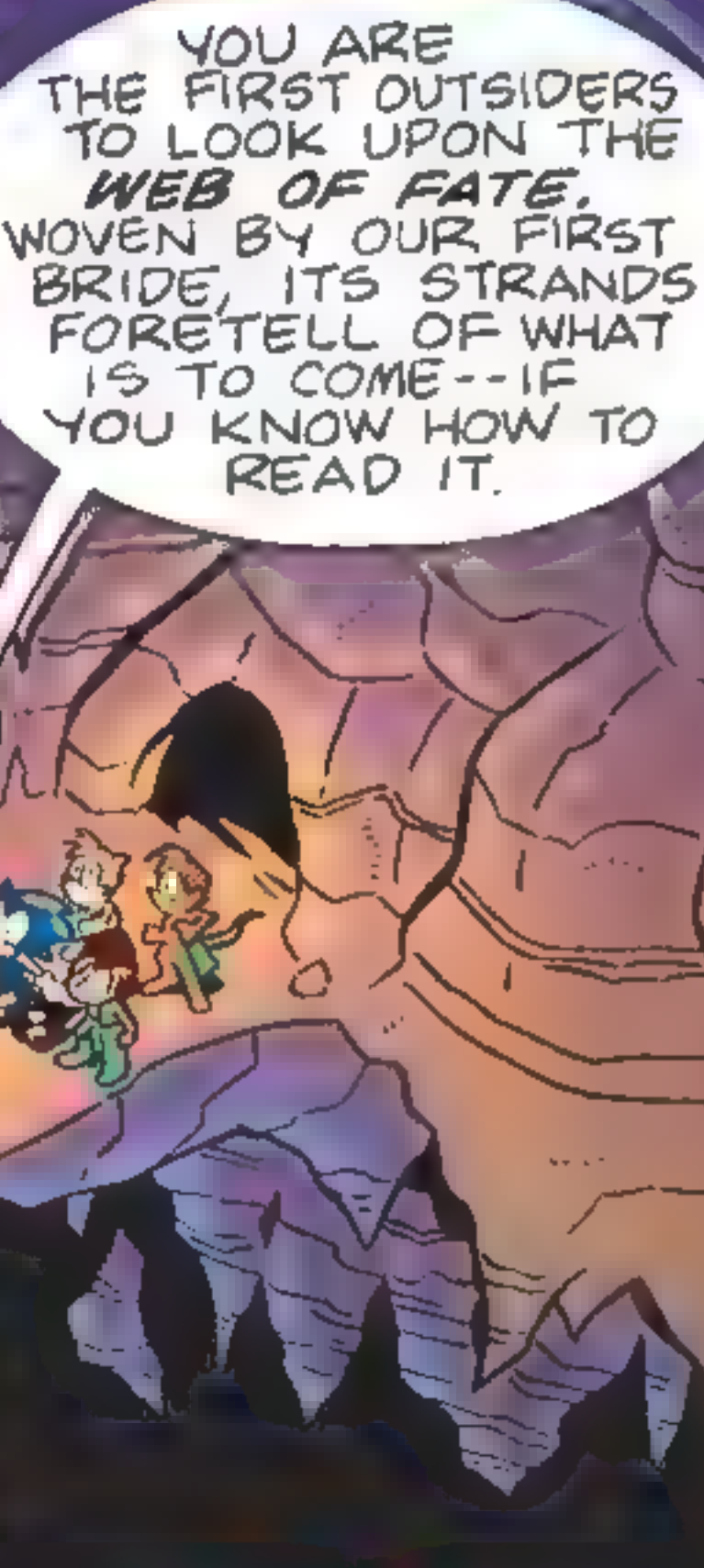
THIS IS ALL VERY FASCINATING, REALLY, BUT COULD YOU MAYBE HAVE IT MAKE SOME SENSE TO THE UNINITIATED?

UMA, AND INDEED, ALL OF THE ARACHNE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUR MOST GIFTED READERS.

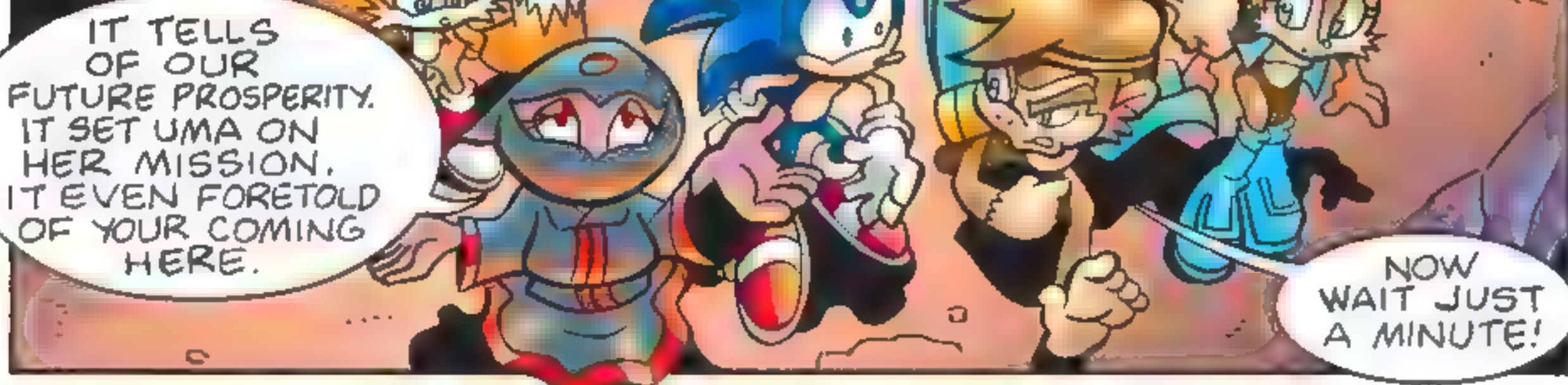


SHE SAW THAT THE LAST RELICS OF THE SOURCE OF ALL WOULD FALL INTO THE HANDS OF EVIL AND ENSURED THEY WERE DESTROYED, EVEN AFTER HER OWN DEATH.

Yuh-huh. ABOUT MAKING THIS ALL MAKE SENSE...?



YOU ARE THE FIRST OUTSIDERS TO LOOK UPON THE *WEB OF FATE*, WOVEN BY OUR FIRST BRIDE, ITS STRANDS FORETELL OF WHAT IS TO COME--IF YOU KNOW HOW TO READ IT.



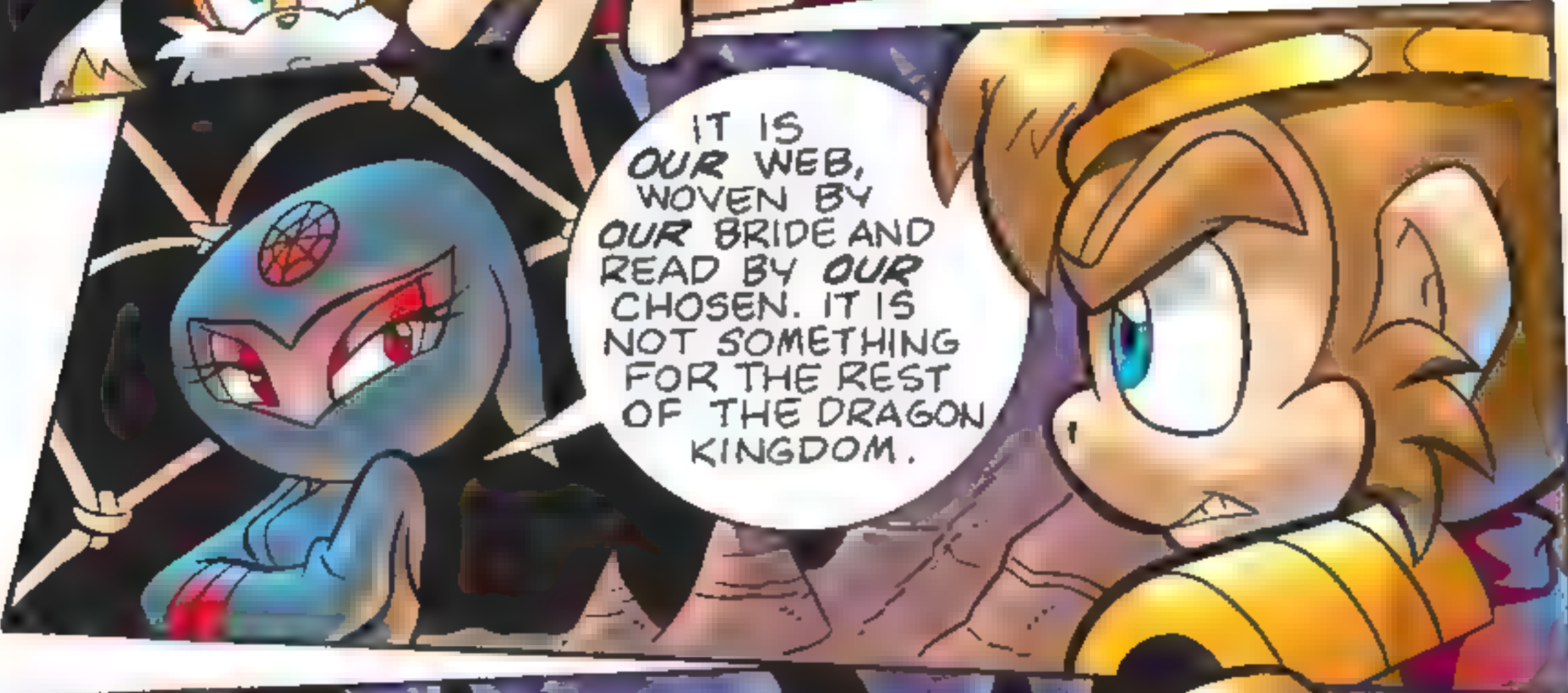
IT TELLS OF OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY. IT SET UMA ON HER MISSION. IT EVEN FORETOLD OF YOUR COMING HERE.

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

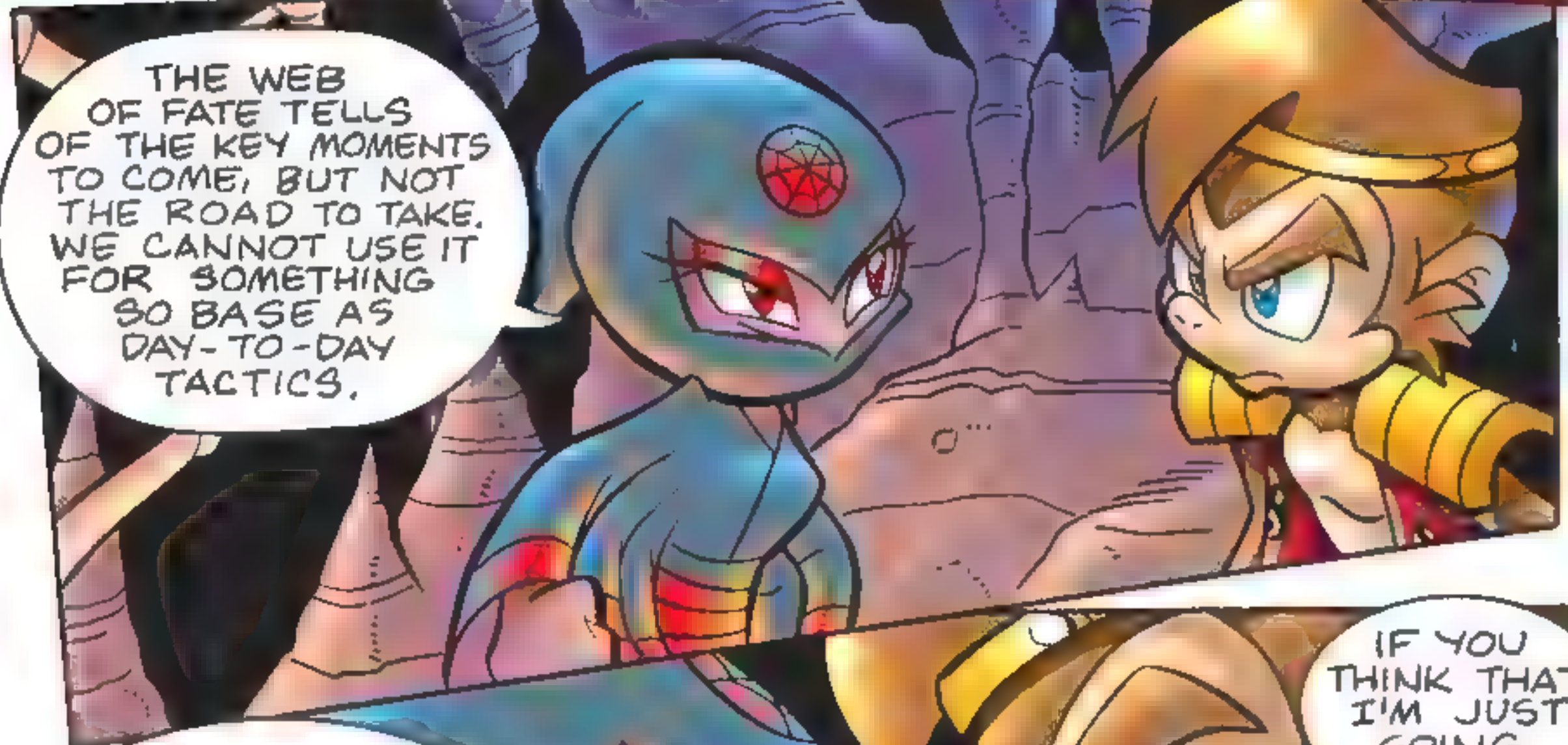


IF YOU CAN FORESEE ALL THIS, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN FIGHTING?! WHY HAVE MY PEOPLE BEEN MADE TO SUFFER IF YOU'RE ALREADY SO WELL INFORMED?! WHY AREN'T YOU SHARING YOUR WISDOM WITH THE REST OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM?!

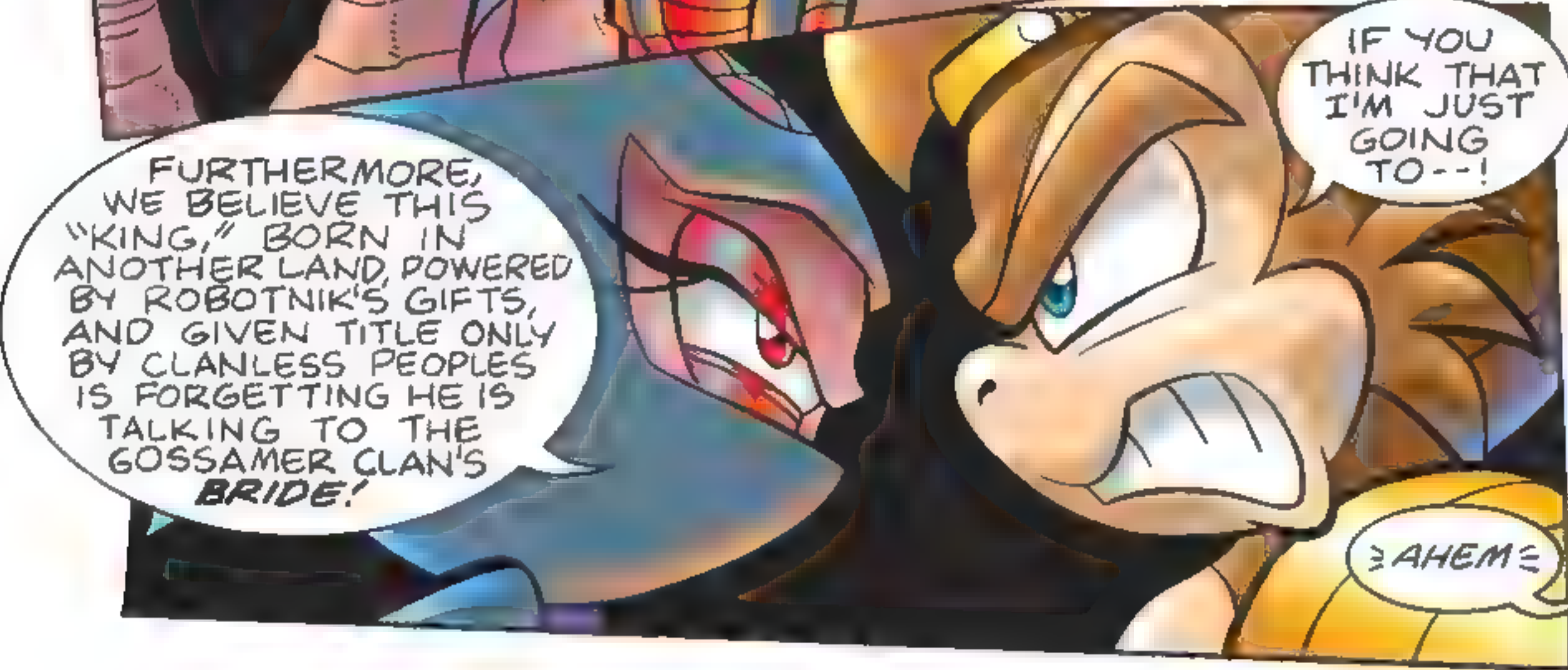
Er... KHAN? MAYBE NOW ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO...



IT IS OUR WEB, WOVEN BY OUR BRIDE AND READ BY OUR CHOSEN. IT IS NOT SOMETHING FOR THE REST OF THE DRAGON KINGDOM.



THE WEB OF FATE TELLS OF THE KEY MOMENTS TO COME, BUT NOT THE ROAD TO TAKE. WE CANNOT USE IT FOR SOMETHING SO BASE AS DAY-TO-DAY TACTICS.



FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE THIS "KING," BORN IN ANOTHER LAND, POWERED BY ROBOTNIK'S GIFTS, AND GIVEN TITLE ONLY BY CLANLESS PEOPLES IS FORGETTING HE IS TALKING TO THE GOSSAMER CLAN'S BRIDE!

IF YOU THINK THAT I'M JUST GOING TO--!

≡ AHEM ≡

Jughead #2000

A STORY SO HUGE...



**EXCLUSIVE
COMIC SHOP
VARIANT
COVER**

**IN THIS ISSUE:
A SPELLBINDING
GUEST STAR!**

**ROBOT
CHICKEN WRITER
TOM ROOT
PRESENTS THE MOST
MIND-SHATTERING
JUGHEAD STORY
OF ALL
TIME!**

IT NEEDS 2 COVERS!

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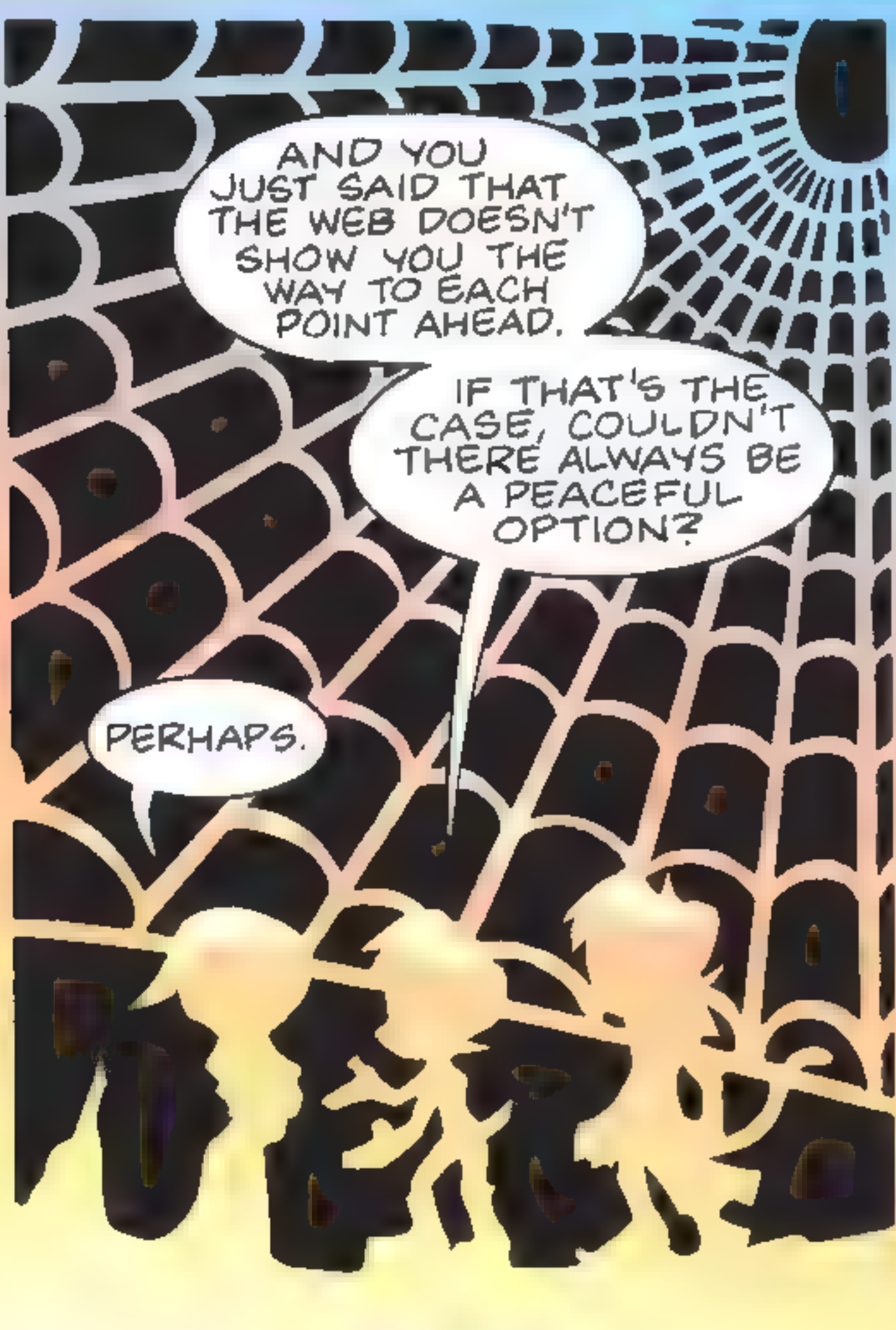


IF I MAY...?



THE DRAGON KINGDOM IS A MASSIVE LAND. THE UNORGANIZED "FREE PEOPLE" CAN LIVE ALONGSIDE THE OTHER CLANS COMFORTABLY, RIGHT?

OF COURSE, ALL THEY WANT IS TO LIVE IN PEACE.



AND YOU JUST SAID THAT THE WEB DOESN'T SHOW YOU THE WAY TO EACH POINT AHEAD.

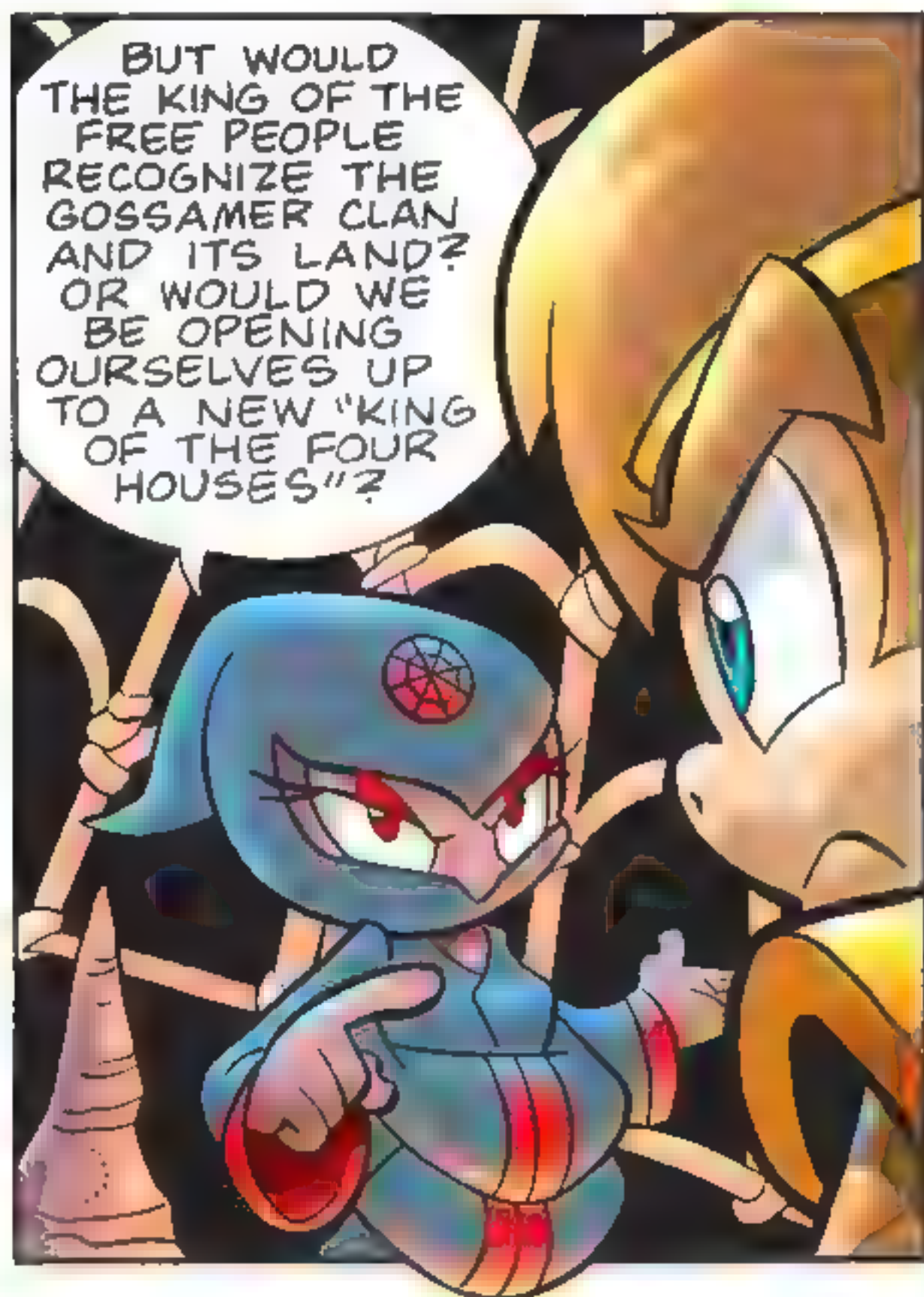
IF THAT'S THE CASE, COULDN'T THERE ALWAYS BE A PEACEFUL OPTION?

PERHAPS.



WOULDN'T IT BE WORTH THE EFFORT, EVEN IF IT ISN'T THE FASTEST ROUTE? YOUR CLAN HAS ALREADY LOST UMA AND SIX YOUNG MEMBERS WHO NEVER GOT TO SEE THEIR HOMELAND.

THAT... THAT IS VERY TRUE...



BUT WOULD THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE GOSSAMER CLAN AND ITS LAND? OR WOULD WE BE OPENING OURSELVES UP TO A NEW "KING OF THE FOUR HOUSES"?



THE PEOPLE ONLY WANT PEACE. AS... AS KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE, I WOULD BE SURE TO HONOR YOUR CLAN AND ITS CLAIMS. YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR.

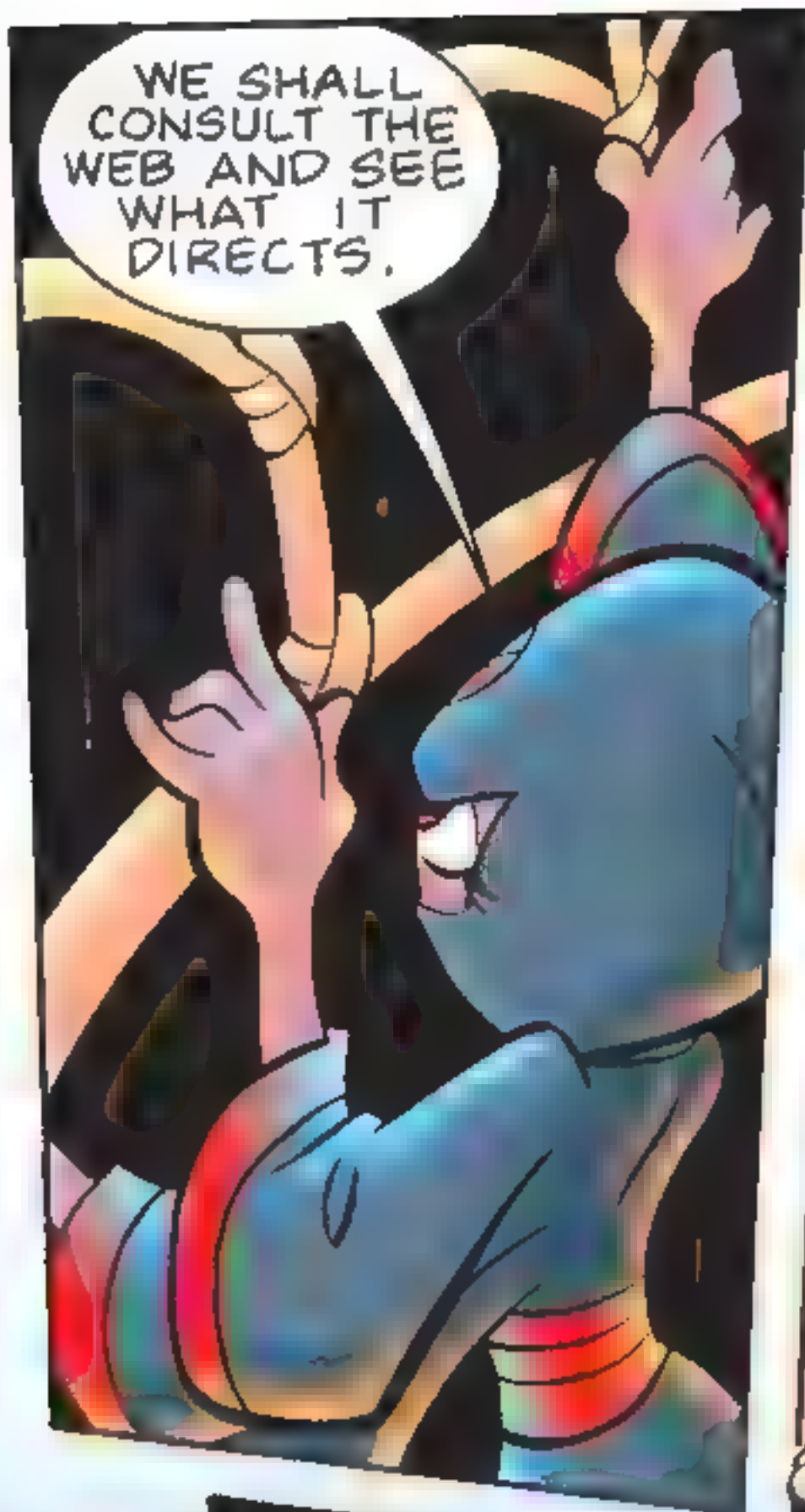
YOU THINK SHE'S GOING TO JUST BUY "YOUR WORD"?



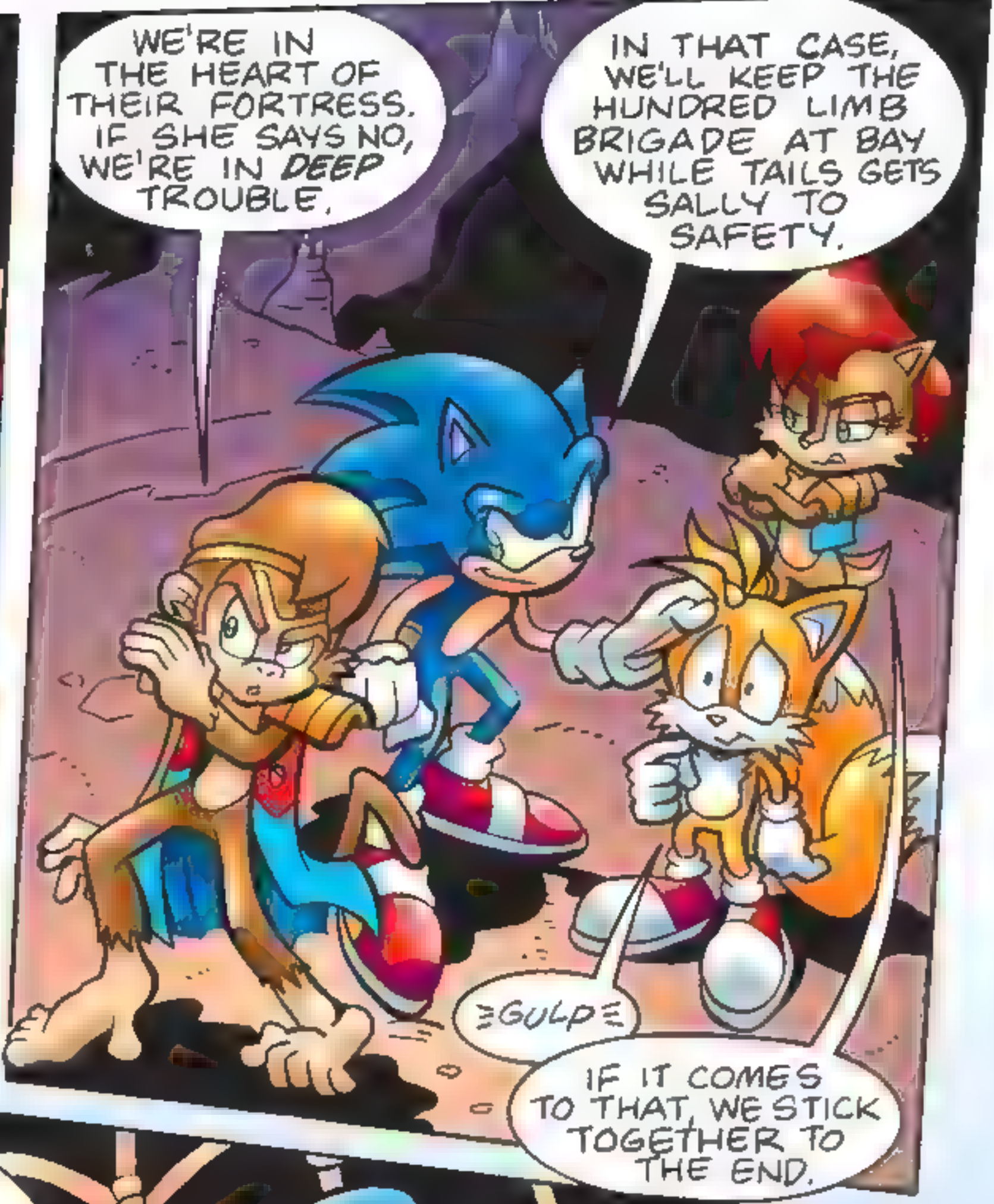
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO THINGS OVER *THERE*, BUT IN THE DRAGON KINGDOM ONE'S "WORD OF HONOR" IS SACRED.

ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT! CONSIDER ME CULTURALLY ENLIGHTENED NOW.

I'M ALL THERE IS TO FIGHT FOR THESE LANDS. THERE ARE NO FREEDOM FIGHTERS HERE. IF THERE'S GOING TO BE PEACE, YOUR CLAN IS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST GESTURE.



WE SHALL CONSULT THE WEB AND SEE WHAT IT DIRECTS.

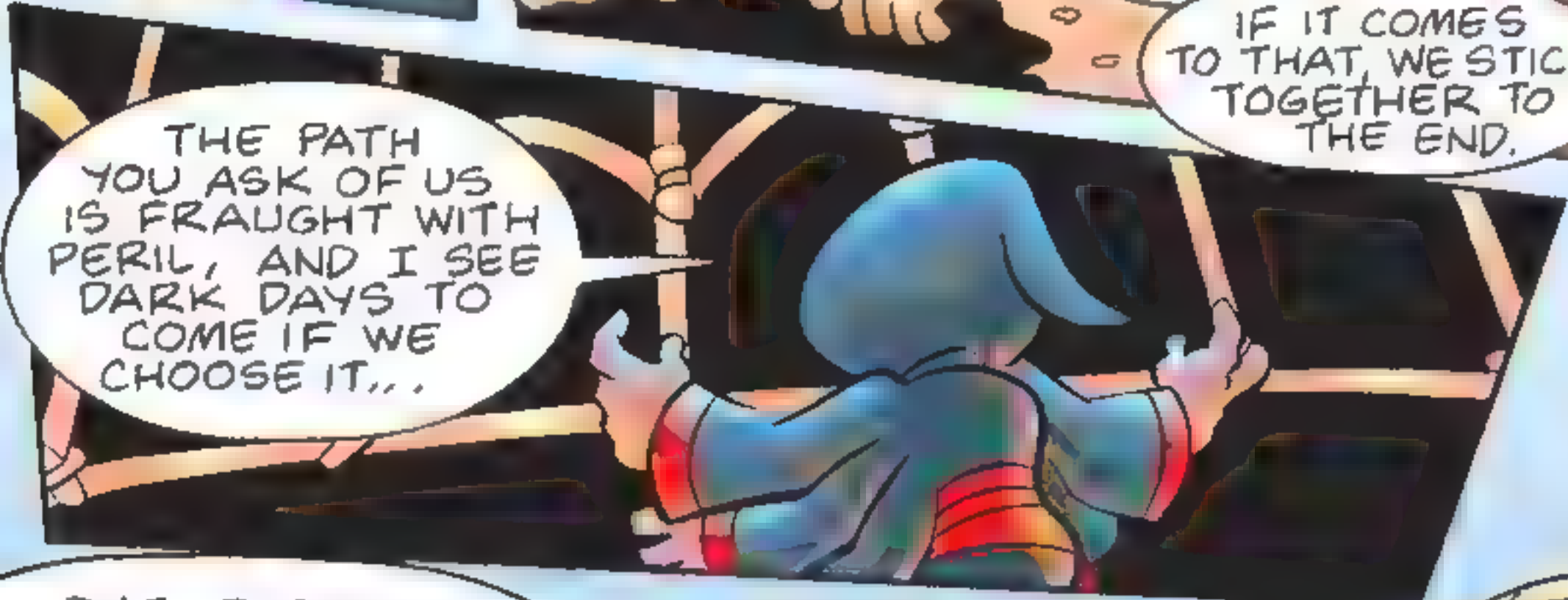


WE'RE IN THE HEART OF THEIR FORTRESS. IF SHE SAYS NO, WE'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE.

IN THAT CASE, WE'LL KEEP THE HUNDRED LIMB BRIGADE AT BAY WHILE TAILS GETS SALLY TO SAFETY.

≡GULP≡

IF IT COMES TO THAT, WE STICK TOGETHER TO THE END.



THE PATH YOU ASK OF US IS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, AND I SEE DARK DAYS TO COME IF WE CHOOSE IT...



...BUT IT SHOULD ENSURE PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL CLANS AND ALL PEOPLE IN THE END. WE SHALL REJECT THE IRON DOMINION AND YOU WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT, YOU HAVE MY WORD OF HONOR.



SCORE ONE FOR THE GOOD GUYS!

YEAH!

THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF ACORN.

WE WILL BE WATCHING YOU WITH GREAT INTEREST, KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.

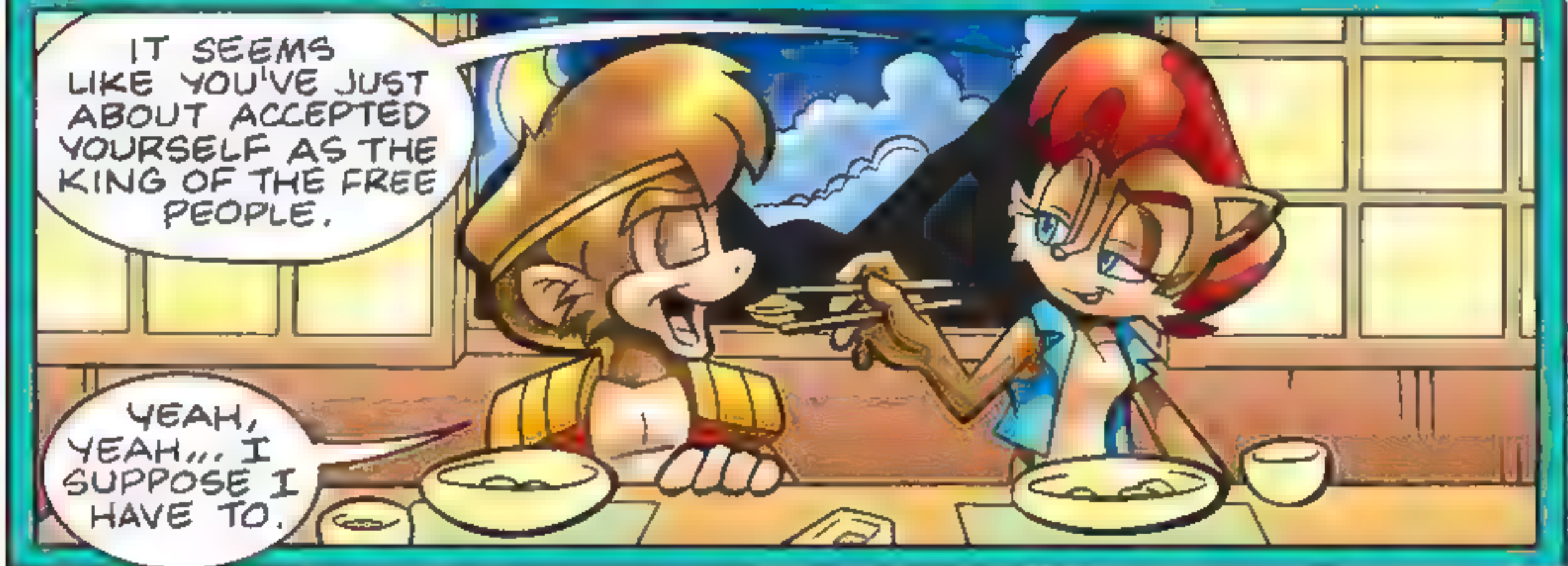


... AND THEN KHAN GETS ALL IN HER FACE, AND I'M THINKING -- "GREAT. WAY TO GET US INTO ANOTHER BIG FIGHT, MONKEY BOY!"



SO AFTER ALL THAT TALK ABOUT LOSING YOUR TOUCH, YOU JUST ENDED HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF HOSTILITY. FEEL BETTER ABOUT YOURSELF NOW?

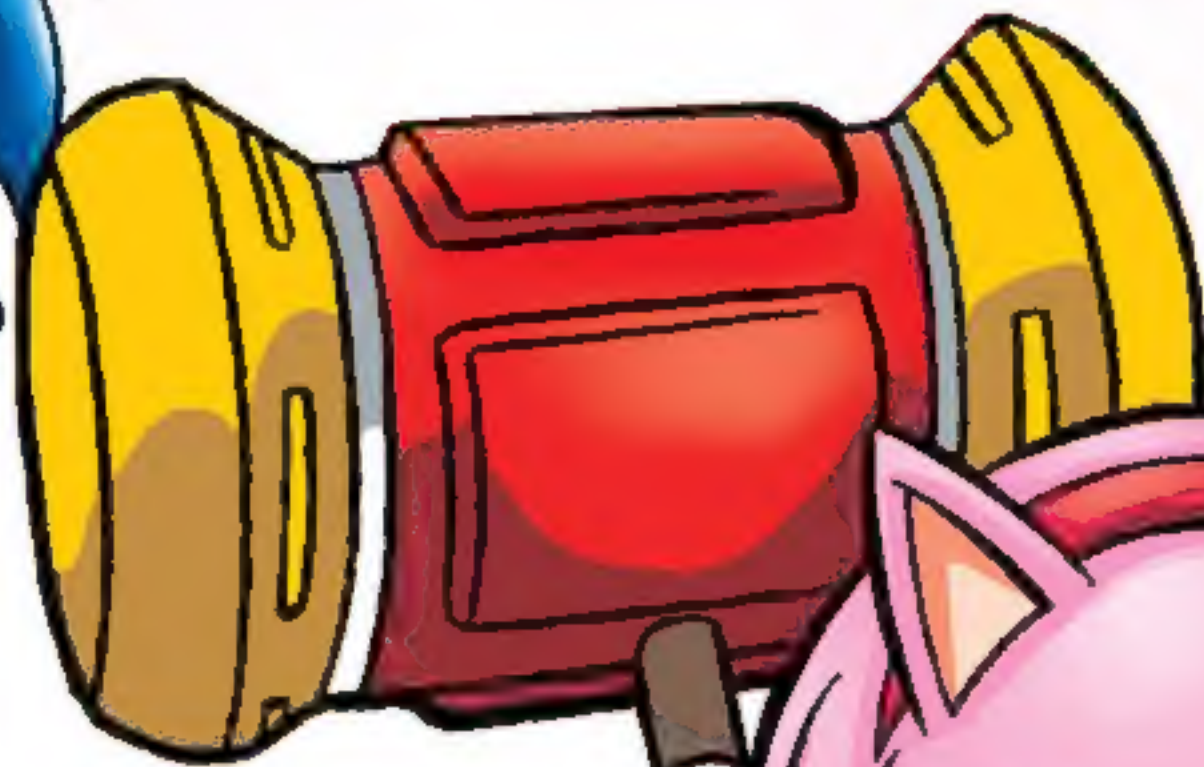
I DID ALRIGHT, I SUPPOSE.



IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE JUST ABOUT ACCEPTED YOURSELF AS THE KING OF THE FREE PEOPLE.

YEAH, YEAH... I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO.

ANYTHING
YOU CAN DO...



...I CAN SMASH
BETTER!

AMY ROSE AND THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
FACE THEIR TOUGHEST
BATTLE YET IN

SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
208 - 212

STARTING
THIS
JANUARY
FROM





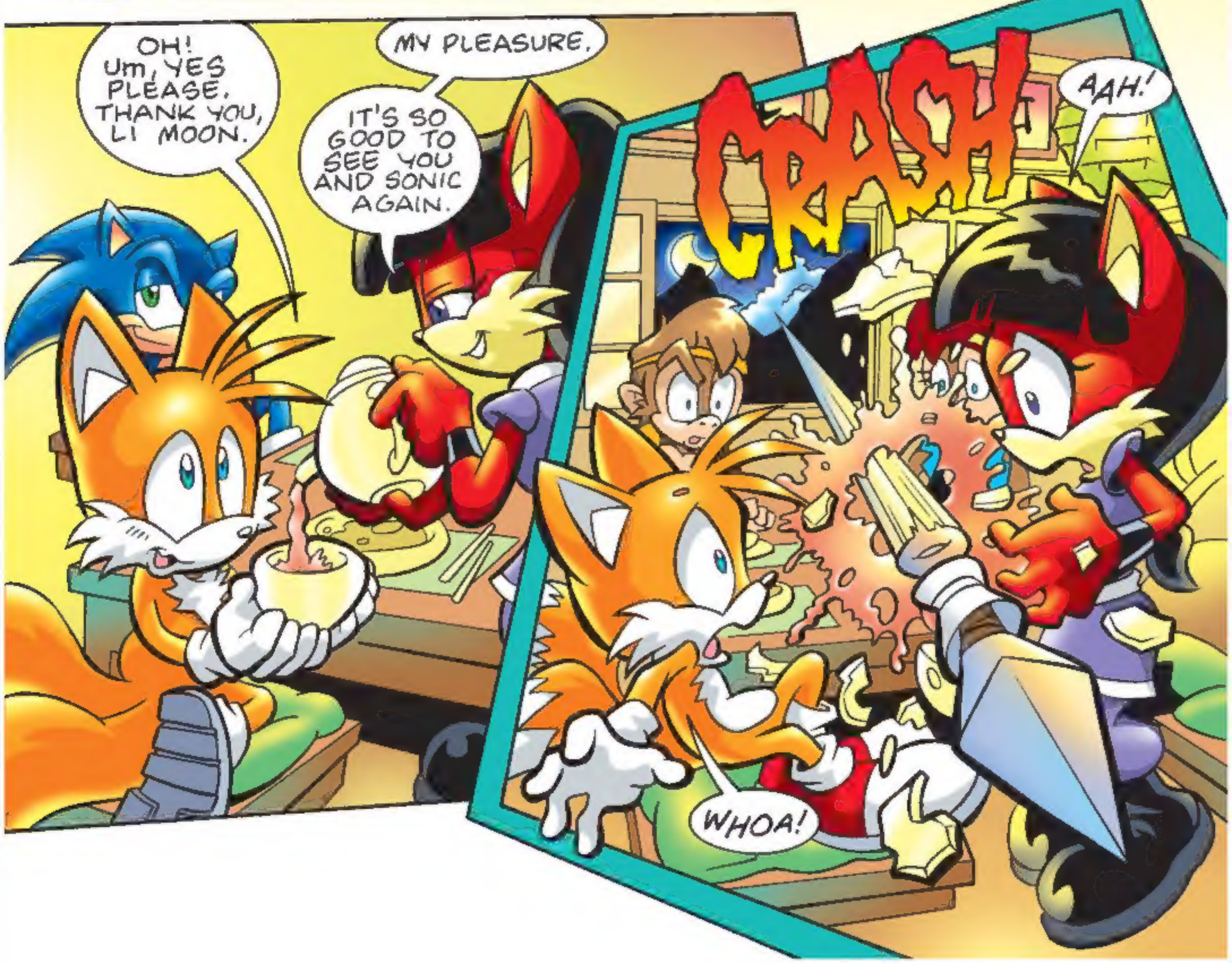
DO YOU THINK EVERYONE IS DOING OKAY BACK HOME?

SONIC?

WHAT?
OH, YEAH! SURE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM. I'M SURE AMY ROSE AND EVERYONE HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL WITH NICOLE'S HELP.*

MORE TEA?

*SEE FOR YOURSELF IN STH # 210!



OH! Um, YES PLEASE. THANK YOU, LI MOON.

MY PLEASURE.

IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AND SONIC AGAIN.

AAH!

WHOA!

CRASH!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

I'M FINE, GRANDFATHER. JUST VERY WET.

GAH! TAILS! CUT IT OUT!

HURRY, SONIC! MAYBE WE CAN STILL CATCH WHOEVER THAT WAS BEFORE--!

THEY'D BE LONG GONE BY NOW, KEN.

IF THEY MEANT TO HURT US, THEY'D DO MORE THAN DESTROY THE KETTLE.

WELL, THEY TICKED ME OFF. THAT WAS GOOD TEA.

WHAT'S THE NOTE SAY?

IT'S FROM THE LEADER OF THE LOCAL YAGYU ENCAMPMENT. HE WANTS TO MEET WITH US.

WORD TRAVELS FAST AROUND HERE.



THAT SUITS ME JUST FINE!

WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN ONE CLAN TO BREAK AWAY, TOMORROW, WE'LL TAKE ON THE YAGYU CLAN!

So far so good, but how can you trust the nefarious Yagyu Clan of Bat Ninjas? And you'll never guess who returns to darken Sonic and Tails' day! It's threats old and new next time as Sonic's "Journey to the East" continues!